losses, repayment of loans, etc., is given to the sick units, as per RBI guidelines in this regard.

ABOLITION OF WEALTH TAX ON FARMERS

2565. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that wealth tax which was abolished by the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi has been re-imposed recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that agricultural wealth-tax was imposed on the farmers recently;

(c) whether Government consider to abolish this; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The provisions of wealth-tax have been modified by Finance Act, 1992 and it is leviable on certain specified assets alone, one of these being urban land as defined under the Wealth-tax Act. No agricultural wealth-tax has been levied on farmers.

(c) In view of answer to part (b) of the question reply to this part does not arise.

(d) In view of answer to part (b) of the question reply to this part does not arise.

FORMATION OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BANK

2566. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :—

(a) whether a group of scientists and technologists held discussions with Government on the formation of technology development bank;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up such type of banks in the country to facilitate scientists to keep a dollar account; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ANOMALIES IN THE IMPORT DUTY STRUCTURE

2567. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to remove anomalies in the import duty structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) wheher the existing import duty structure is hurting the domestic industry at large ; and

(d) if so, by when the anomalies in import duty structure would be removed ?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (c) Government has received several representations from the various sectors of trade and Industry for removal of certain anomalies as perceived by them in order to give protection to the domestic industry. These suggestions are given due consideration.

(d) In view of the ensuing Budget it is not possible to indicate the views of the Government in this matter.

EXCISE CONCESSIONS GIVEN ON CERAIN ITEMS

2568. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the drugs, cosmetics and man made fibres industries have not passed on the excise duty con-